

Homeland Security Update...



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TSA Launches Registered Traveler Program

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recently announced the launch of the Registered Traveler Program. This program is designed to expedite the security screening process for low risk airline passengers.

Selected airlines in five airports nationwide are participating in the pilot program, which will be launched in early July. The participating airlines will provide travelers flying at least once a week the opportunity to volunteer for this program at no cost during the pilot phase. Travelers who wish to enroll in the program will provide TSA their name, address, phone number, date of birth, as well biometric information, including fingerprints and iris scans. Using this information, TSA will perform a security assessment and enroll the approved participants. Those enrolled will check-in at a separate lane where their biometric information will be verified. In most instances, secondary screening will not be required. All volunteers in the program will still undergo basic security screening.

DHS is using pre-enrollment programs in other modes of transportation in order to expedite security checks and facilitate the flow of trade and travel. Programs such as the Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) along the southern border and Free and Secure Trade (FAST) for commercial shipments at land ports of entry, allows registered travelers and commercial drivers faster processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The Homeland Security Committee believes that the goal of implementing screening measures that promote security, while facilitating the movement of people and goods is essential for a strong border management system. The Committee will track the progress of the Registered Traveler Program as it is implemented over the next several months.

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